

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: J. Ostensen, et al. Group Art Unit: To be assigned
Serial Number: To be assigned Examiner: To be assigned
Filing Date: December 5, 2001
Title: Improvements In or Relating to Contrast Agents

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the prosecution of the captioned application, which is a continuation of United States patent application number 09/291,277 filed April 14, 1999, which is a continuation of international patent application number PCT/GB97/02898 filed October 21, 1997. This application also claims priority to application number 9621884.7 filed October 21, 1996 in Great Britain and application number 9708239.0 filed April 23, 1997 in Great Britain. Additionally, this application claims the benefit of United States provisional application number 60/044,452 filed April 29, 1997.

In the Specification

Please amend page 1, line 5, by inserting the following sentence and heading:

-- This application is a continuation application of United States patent application number 09/291,277 filed April 14, 1999, which is a continuation of international patent application number PCT/GB97/02898 filed October 21, 1997, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Background of Invention--

Please amend page 4, line 11, by inserting the following heading:

--Summary of Invention--

Please amend page 5, line 8, by inserting the following heading:

--Detailed Description of the Invention--

Please amend page 39, line 28, by inserting the following heading:

--Examples--

Please amend page 102, line 22, by inserting the following paragraph:

-- It is apparent that many modifications and variations of the invention as hereinabove set forth may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. The specific embodiments described are given by way of example only, and the invention is limited only by the terms of the appended claims.--

In the Claims

Please amend page 103, line 1, as follows:

[Claims]

What is claimed is:

Please cancel claims 2-25 and 27, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (once amended) A method as claimed in claim 26[or claim 27] wherein a vasodilator drug is coadministered to the subject.

Remarks

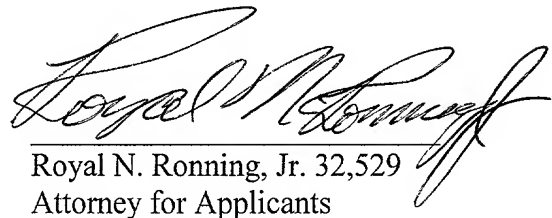
Applicants have amended the specification to cross reference the parent application, indicating that the present application is a continuation of a pending United States patent application. Applicants have also amended the specification to add the required headings.

Applicants have cancelled claims 2-25 and 27, without prejudice. Applicants have amended claim 28 to delete a multiple dependency. A marked up version of the claims showing the amendments as well as a clean version of the claims encompassing the amendments is attached hereto.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the International Search Report, which issued on International Application number PCT/GB97/02898, of which the parent application of the present application is a continuation. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry.

Respectfully submitted,


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What is claimed is:

28. (once amended) A method as claimed in claim 26[or claim 27] wherein a vasodilator drug is coadministered to the subject.

Claims (clean version encompassing amendments)

What is claimed is:

1. A combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use as a contrast agent in ultrasound imaging, said preparation comprising:
 - i) an injectable aqueous medium having gas dispersed therein; and
 - ii) a composition comprising a diffusible component capable of diffusion *in vivo* into said dispersed gas so as at least transiently to increase the size thereof.
26. A method of generating enhanced images of a human or non-human animal subject which comprises the steps of:
 - i) injecting a physiologically acceptable aqueous medium having gas dispersed therein into the vascular system of said subject;
 - ii) before, during or after injection of said aqueous medium administering to said subject a composition comprising a diffusible component capable of diffusion *in vivo* into said dispersed gas so as at least transiently to increase the size thereof; and
 - iii) generating an ultrasound image of at least a part of said subject.
28. (once amended) A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein a vasodilator drug is coadministered to the subject.

29. A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said vasodilator drug is adenosine.

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